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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,686	09/27/2001	Andrew Stocker	056291-5057	9682

9629 7590 08/31/2004

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EXAMINER

RAYMOND, RICHARD L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 08/31/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/963,686

Applicant(s)

STOCKER ET AL.

Examiner

Richard L. Raymond

Art Unit

1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Pursuant to the requirement for election of species, applicants have elected the compound of Example 9, a compound under the present generic formula where A is a pyridazinyl ring and $-T^1(R^2)-L^1-T^2(R^3)-$ together form a piperazinyl ring. Claims 1-14 are readable thereon.

Improper Markush Rejection

2. Claims 1-7 and 10-14 are rejected as being improper Markush claims in the definition of the A variable as heteroaryl containing only nitrogen atoms and other heteroaryl groups and $-T^1(R^2)-L^1-T^2(R^3)-$ being piperazine, other heterocyclic groups and nonheterocyclic groups. So substituted, the resulting total compounds lack a common core and are structurally diverse and patentable distinct one from the others. A reference anticipating one under 35 USC 102 would not be a reference against the others under 35 USC 103. Further, an undue search burden in the U.S. classification system (various subclasses in classes 540, 544, 546, 546, 549, 560, 562, 564 and 568, and the corresponding subclasses of use class 514) and the literature (STN/CAS) is involved. Limitation of the claims to compounds where A is N-heteroaryl and $-T^1(R^2)-L^1-T^2(R^3)-$ forms a piperazine ring, encompassing the elected species, will overcome this rejection.

3. The claims have been searched and examined to the extent that they read on the above grouped invention.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claims 1-14 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of parent U.S. Patent No. 6,300,330. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the $T^1(R^2)-L^1-T^2(R^3)$ grouping of the patent claims forms a piperaziny ring which anticipate the present claims where the $T^1(R^2)-L^1-T^2(R^3)$ grouping can be a piperaziny ring, other N rings or non-cyclic groups. Where not anticipating the present claims, the claims of the patent render the present claims structurally obvious.

6. Claims 1-14 are further provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of copending Reissue Application No. 10/391,025 (a reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,300,330, above). See the reasons above. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. Claims 1-7 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. (1) The use of the language "for example" and "preferably" in claim 1 renders that claim and claims 2-7 and 10-14 dependent thereon indefinite. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. (2) Claims 5-7 and 10-13 are multiple dependent claims improperly dependent on other multiple dependent claims. (3) The term "pyradazinyI" in claim 8 should apparently read -- pyridazinyI --. (4) Claim 10 is a substantial duplicate of the claims on which it depends since no patentable significance is given to statements of intended use in compound claims. (5) Claim 12 provides for the use of compounds, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite

where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced. Correction and/or clarification of the above criticisms is requested.

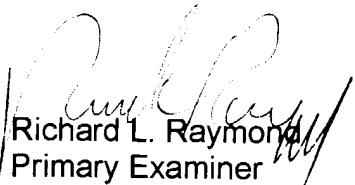
Information Disclosure Statement

8. It is requested that a Form PTO-1449 citing the prior art of record in the parent application be supplied to complete the record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard L. Raymond whose telephone number is (571) 272-0673. The examiner can normally be reached on maxi-flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on (571) 272-0674. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Richard L. Raymond
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624

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August 25, 2004